

REMARKS

The Claims in the case are 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, and 25-28. Claims 4, 16, 24, 25, and 28 have been allowed. Claims 10, 11, 15, 18, 19, 21, 22, 26 and 27 were objected to.

The claims that have been cancelled in this paper are Claims 1, 8, 17, 20, 23, 29 and 30. The rejections (section 112, 1st and 2nd paragraphs, 102(b) and 103(a) pertaining to these claims will not be answered in this paper as being moot.

Claim 1, now cancelled, was rejected on multiple grounds, including 35 USC 102(b). Claims 2 and 3 were also rejected under 35 USC 102(b), but the amendments made in this paper to those claims have removed the overlap between any of the references: Katoh, Blackburn, Venet and Mabire. The amendments to Claims 2 and 3 are subgeneric groups that present no overlap with the references, and that are supported by the specification and examples. The proviso in Claim 2 is added in response to the teaching in the EP 0371564 of record in this application.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection as it pertains to the amended Claims 2 or 3 is respectfully requested.

The other rejected and objected claims are dependent on claims 2 and 3 and their rejection or objection can also be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The process claim 13 has been amended to avoid the rejection under section 112, 2nd paragraph, and reconsideration of this rejection is also requested.

Early favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully requests a timely Notice of Allowance of the claims in the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 15, 2008